

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, EGEN, CGEN, PO

SUBJ: ALGARVE TRIP REPORT: TOURISM BOOMING

1. HOTELS OVERBOOKED: FOLLOWING THREE NEARLY DISASTROUS YEARS, TOURIST INDUSTRY IN ALGARVE IS FACING EMBARRASSMENT OF RICHES AS 1977 TOURIST SEASON APPROACHES. SEVERAL MAJOR HOTELS ADMIT PRIVATELY THAT THEY ARE SERIOUSLY OVERBOOKED FOR PEAK MONTHS OF JULY AND AUGUST. HOTEL MANAGERS TOLD EMBOFFS APR 15 THAT DURING 1976 SEASON, ALGARVE HOTELS OVERBOOKED BY 30 PERCENT BUT WERE FILLED FAR BELOW CAPACITY AS A RESULT OF FALLOUT DUE TO STILL UNSTABLE POLITICAL SITUATION. CONSEQUENTLY, HOTELS ACCEPTED OVERBOOKINGS OF UP TO 100 PERCENT FOR 1977 SEASON. CURRENT INDICATIONS ARE THAT FALLOUT RATE WILL BE LOW. HOTEL MANAGERS ARE SEEKING TO LINE UP ALL POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATIONS AS PORTUGAL LOOKS FORWARD TO ITS BIGGEST TOURISM SEASON EVER.

2. OTHER ENCOURAGING FACTORS: THERE IS NOTABLE INCREASE IN INQUIRIES BY PERSONS INTERESTED IN PURCHASING OR LEASING RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY IN ALGARVE. UNEMPLOYMENT IS CURRENTLY LESS SERIOUS PROBLEM IN REGION DUE TO INCREASED CONSTRUCTION AND TOURISM.

3. COMMENT: TOURIST CAPACITY FOR FOREIGNERS IN ALGARVE IS UNCLASSIFIED

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LIMITED BY HEAVY DEMAND FROM PORTUGUESE WHO ARE UNABLE TO TRAVEL ABROAD ON USUAL VACATIONS DUE TO CURRENCY RESTRICTIONS.
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Message Attributes

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